



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

SN

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/785,398	02/20/01	CONTI	C 88265-412

028765
WINSTON & STRAWN
200 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK NY 10166-4193

IM52/1023

EXAMINER
TRAN LIEN, T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1761	F

DATE MAILED: 10/23/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/785,398	Applicant(s) Conti et al
	Examiner Lien Tran	Art Unit 1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Feb. 20, 2001

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____

Art Unit: 1761

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Great Britain on August 9, 1998. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

2. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

Non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations have been made to the oath or declaration. See 37 CFR 1.52(c).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Art Unit: 1761

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biggs et al in view of the book "The Wholefood Catalog".

Biggs et al disclose a wafer comprising flour, sucrose, invert sugar, fat, salt and lecithin. The wafer contain a food core selected form the group consisting of ice cream, fish, meat, vegetable, fruit, nuts, chocolate pieces and the like. The wafer may be coated with a barrier coating such as a fat or fat based coating. (See column 2)

Biggs et al do not disclose the addition of cereal grits, the ratio of flour to grits, the amount of water in the wafer, the amount of ingredients as claimed and the water activity of the second confectionery material.

The Wholefood Catalog teaches to add cooked grits to batters for muffins, griddle cakes or quick breads for extra moisture and flavor.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to add grits ,as taught by the cookbook, to the wafer batter if one desires to obtain extra moisture and flavor. The amount to use depends on the flavor and moistness desired and this can be determined by one skilled in the art. While Biggs et al do not disclose the addition of water, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to add water in order to make the batter to form the wafer. The amount of water in the final wafer product will obviously be similar to the one claimed because the two products are the same type of product. As to the amount of ingredients, it would have been obvious to vary the amounts depending on the taste, flavor, texture desired. For example, it would have been obvious to add more sugar to obtain a sweeter taste. The water activity of the second

Application/Control Number: 09/785398

Art Unit: 1761

confectionery material depends on the type of material used. It would have been obvious to select any type of confectionery material depending on the flavor desired. It would have been obvious to select a material that is compatible with the wafer.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Morgan, Leibfred et al and Negro all disclose wafer products.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lien Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-1868. The examiner can normally be reached on Wed-Fri. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7718.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

October 19, 2001


LIEN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Group 1702